

Remarks

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,771,383 (“Ogaki”) in view of Mei, U.S. Patent No. 6,236,831 (“Mei”) and further in view of Douglan, U.S. Patent No. 6,619,695 (“Douglan”). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Mei and Douglan.

Ogaki discloses a mechanism adapted to create multi-page data consisting of image data of a plurality of pages that constitute one document, and to manage the multi-page data in the same stage as single-page data that consists of image data of each page belonging to the document. As a result, an image processing system is realized which can make use of both a single-page file suitable for management or updating of image data performed in units of one page, and a multi-page file suitable for processing of image data performed in units of one document. See Ogaki at Abstract.

Mei discloses a method and apparatus for recycling marking surfaces such as office paper is described. The system scans a marking surface, determines the location of printing on the marking surface and deposits erasing material directly over the printing. Because the distribution of erasing material is confined to the printed areas, the use of erasing material is minimized. The described system can be easily adapted for use in traditional copying systems to recycle paper. See Mei at Abstract.

Douglan discloses a telecopier cover sheet comprising transparent membrane for legible marking thereon and at least one oppositely disposed membrane section assembled

thereagainst and adapted for supporting a document therebetween. The transparent cover sheet allows a person sending the document by telecopier to create a writing that appears thereagainst in the telecopied mode and yet is subsequently erasable. The telecopy document is retained within the oppositely disposed membranes comprising the assembly to therein facilitate the handling and telecopying thereof. See Douglin at Abstract.

Claim 1 of the present application recites determining if an input separator page contains first print job information by optically identifying a first set of end markers on an input separator page. Applicant submits that Ogaki, Wei and Douglin each fail to disclose or suggest such a process. The Office Action asserts that Wei discloses such a feature at col. 2, ll. 31-35. See Office Action at Page 4, lines 11-16. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The passage relied upon by the Office Action discloses:

The image of the marks may be formed on a xerographic photoceptor in a process similar to that used in some light lens copiers produced by Xerox Corporation. A deposition or printing system deposits erasing material such as opaque white toner or a bleaching compound over the marks.

See Wei at col. 2, ll. 31-35.

Applicant submits that nowhere in the passage is there disclosed, or reasonably suggested, a process of *determining if an input separator page contains first print job information, or optically identifying a first set of end markers on an input separator page.*

Because Ogaki, Wei and Douglin each fail to disclose or suggest a process of determining if an input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator page, any combination of Ogaki, Wei and Douglin would also

fail to disclose or suggest such a process. As a result, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Wei and Douglin.

Independent claims 7 and 13 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus claims 7 and 13, and their respective dependent claims, are also patentable over Ogaki in view of Wei and Douglin for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 50-3669.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



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Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040
(303) 740-1980